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Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 249

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26 November 1982

WORLDWIDE REPORT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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STATE URGED TO RESUME FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PEACESAT

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 16 Sep 82 p 14

[Text]

The Communications Advisory Council wants the Government to resume its financial support for the Peacesat satellite system.

In a report prepared at the request of the Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Shearer, the council chairman, Mr Alan Burnet, said the \$20,000 needed could justifiably be split among three expenditure votes — education, foreign affairs and science and technology.

Link-up

The Peacesat satellite system links 18 countries in the Pacific Basin, covering Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Australia.

The council also recommended:

- That Peacesat funding in New Zealand be continued

for the life of the satellite, expected to be until the end of next year.

- That Peacesat organisation be urged to consider transferring its activities to the international public telecommunications network on the expiry of the satellite.

- That Dr Shearer discuss the diplomatic aspects of continuing Peacesat funding in the short term with the

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Cooper.

In a response to the report, Dr Shearer said today he would take up the recommendations both with Mr Cooper and the Minister of Education, Mr Wellington.

Objections

The council's study began this year after objections to a Government decision to withdraw the \$20,000 needed to run the New Zealand terminal, a cost which had previously been met by the education vote.

The council noted that Peacesat (Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite) developed out of a trial which began in 1971, between the University of Hawaii and the Wellington Polytechnic.

16 years

In its 16 years of operation, Peacesat has blossomed into a network with terminals in 18 countries, and is now used for distance teaching, programme administration, consultation with experts, cultural exchanges, and emergency co-ordination.

The Wellington terminal has catered for as many as 70 organisations during any one year, and has assisted

educational, scientific, agricultural, religious and social welfare interest groups.

The council concluded that Peacesat has developed a particularly valuable organisation for exchanging information in the Pacific Basin and there should be encouragement for the class of activity developed to continue and expand.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SOFTWARE BASED ON JAPANESE KNOW-HOW

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 8 Oct 82 Sec 2 p 16

[Text]

A UNIQUE joint venture company in New Zealand which involves the Post Office in a majority shareholding has been established to manufacture software for telephone exchanges.

The software is for the stored programme control (spc) telephone exchanges — designed to improve both the quality and durability of the telephone system and reduce its size — is now being used by the New Zealand Post Office, and overseas.

Shareholders

The new company, to be called New Zealand Telecommunications Systems Support Centre Ltd, will have as its other shareholders W Scollay and Co Ltd of Wellington (9 percent) and the Nippon Electric Company of Japan (40 percent).

Without the NEC technical "knowhow" the software could not be produced in this country.

Agreements to set up the joint venture were signed this week and the first meeting of the board held today.

The proposal to establish the support centre arose from an offer included in the tender from NEC to supply the spc telephone exchange switching equipment.

Besides producing telecommunications software for use by the Post Office here, the company intends also to export to other NEC customers who have already bought that firm's switching equipment.

The company will also be able to provide consultation and other technical support services for overseas customers.

The Postmaster-General, Mr Talbot, at a press conference announcing the joint venture's formation, said local benefits included the introduction of more new technology and the prospect of more jobs.

The company is expected to provide work for 35 staff after three years, with the potential to increase that number markedly if overseas sales proceed as planned.

Mr Talbot said the software and other services exported would be valuable earners of overseas funds. Exports in the first five years were conservatively estimated to be worth \$6 million.

There were also advantages to the Post Office. The new company would provide new areas of employment for Post Office staff on secondment.

By working alongside a major manufacturer of switching equipment, these staff would gain a detailed knowledge of that equipment in a way not normally possible.

CSO: 5500/9040

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE IN KARACHI SUBURB INAUGURATED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 22 Oct 82 p 7

[Text]

City Mayor Abdus Sattar Afghani yesterday inaugurated the newly built 1,200 lines Telephone Exchange at Keamari at a cost of Rs 14 million.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Afghani felicitated the Telephone Department for providing telephone facility in the area which is backward as compared to other parts of the city. He also hoped that the Telephone Department would also meet the genuine requirements of other parts of the city.

He further hoped that the Telephone Department would provide new telephone connections to over lakh pending applications in city.

Mayor Afghani also asked the Telephone Department to expedite the work of Lyari Telephone Exchange so that the inhabitants of this backward area could also be benefited by this facility.

Chairman KPT, Rear Admiral M. I. Arshad speaking on the occasion underlined the importance of discipline in public dealing departments so that

better service could be provided to the people.

He said that the only reason of non-expansion of telephone lines was due to the inefficient maintenance of machineries.

Welcoming the chief guest, the general manager, Karachi Telephone Region (KTR), Syed Irshad Hasan said that Keamari Telephone Exchange is part of the annual development plan of the KTR under which 25,000 new telephone connections will be provided in Karachi.

Mr Hasan said anyone who wants to have telephone connection in Keamari can get it immediately as only 500 subscribers have applied so far.

He said during the current financial year 2,000 telephone connections will be provided every month in the city.

Later, Mayor Afghani gave away certificates to Sub-engineer Mr Mahmood Ali, Engineering Supervisor (West three division), Syed Ahmed Raza Abidi and Engineering Supervisor (Development division) for their efficient work.

CSO: 5500/4308

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

MICROWAVE RELAY SYSTEM APPROVED--Quetta, Oct 30: The Federal Government has approved installation of microwave radio relay system for coastal areas of the country. It will cost Rs. 160 million and take about three years to complete. An official spokesman told our representative that under this system microwave telecommunication facilities will be provided between Karachi, Uthal, Ormara, Pasni, Gwadur, Jewani and Turbat. The system will also provide telephone channel for 960 telephones and TV channel for coloured TV relay with associated sound channel. There will also be stand-by channels for TV and telephones.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 31 Oct 82 p 4]

CSO: 5500/4308

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

MICROWAVE TELEVISION CIRCUIT OPENS IN FUJIAN

OW290155 Beijing XINHUA in English 0826 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Fuzhou, October 27 (XINHUA)--China's first across-sea microwave television circuit has opened in Fujian Province, serving the coastal southern part of the region, according to the Provincial Broadcasting Administration.

The 303-kilometer circuit originates at the Fujian TV station in Fuzhou, provincial capital, and transmits to Xiamen, with seven microwave stations in Fuzhou, Pingtan Island and other places.

Using domestically-made equipment, the circuit was designed and installed by the Provincial Broadcasting Administration.

The administration plans to extend the circuit to western Fujian and use it for radio transmission next year.

CSO: 5500/4104

GUIZHOU'S TELEVISION BROADCASTING

HK041104 Guiyang Guizhou Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] In order to speed up the development of Guizhou's television broadcasting in a planned way, the Provincial Broadcasting Bureau held a conference to discuss technical plans for Guizhou's television broadcasting transmission networks in Guiyang 24-31 October. Participating in the conference were some 200 technicians and responsible members of broadcasting bureaus of various prefectures, autonomous prefectures, municipalities and counties. They carefully studied technical policies, technical standards and methods for planning the television transmission networks and, in light of Guizhou's reality, discussed questions concerning how to draw up technical plans for Guizhou's television transmission network, such as planned and scientific arrangements for the layout of television relay stations, channel allocation, how to avoid interference and so on.

The conference drew up plans for two television transmission networks in Guizhou, plans for relaying the two sets of television programs transmitted by the central television station and plans for a ground station to receive broadcasts via satellite. The long-term goal of the technical plans of the television transmission networks is to transmit television to about 95 percent of Guizhou's population, that is, to ensure that on the whole all the people in Guizhou will be able to watch television.

Those who attended the conference had full faith in fulfilling the task of drawing up technical plans for the television transmission networks and in realizing them. They expressed their determination to make contributions to speeding up Guizhou's television development.

CSO: 5500/4105

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

HUNAN POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS--Hunan Province has worked out a preliminary plan for developing postal and telecommunications work for the next 5 years. The total volume of business of posts and telecommunication of the whole province will increase by an average of 3.37 percent per year by 1985. The province installed 36,200 telephones last year. The number of telephone subscribers will increase from 0.77 percent per year now to 0.98 percent per year in 1985. The magnetotelephones [crank telephones] of the post offices in six prefectures have now been changed to automatic telephones. [Text] [Changsha Hunan Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 19 Oct 82 HK]

SHANDONG COMMUNICATIONS UNDERTAKINGS--Since the third plenary session of the 11th party Central Committee, Shandong Province has accelerated the development of post and telecommunications undertakings. In the past 3 years, the province has increased the number of telephone subscribers in urban areas by 24,000, up 22.8 percent over 1978, the long-distance telegram and dialing lines by 339, up 22.9 percent, and the floor space of post offices by 2.1 million square meters. In developing communications undertakings, priority has been given to the eastern areas of Jinan Municipality. Overloaded transmission lines have decreased from 56 percent in 1980 to the present 44 percent. In 1981, with the completion of the Jinan Long-Distance Communications Central Office Building, long-distance automatic dialing services have been opened between Jinan and 22 other municipalities across the country. [Text] [Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin 2300 GMT 23 Oct 82 SK]

CSO: 5500/4104

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

RADIO, TELEVISION ROLE--[Interview with Ly Van Sau, vice president of Vietnamese Radio and Television, at Havana's Palace of Conventions--recorded] [Question] Comrade Ly Van Sau, what can you tell us about the role of radio and television in your country at this new stage of socialist Vietnam. [Answer--in Spanish] As you know, in our long struggle for liberation, radio has played an important role in the mobilization of our people for victory. Vietnamese television made its appearance during the war but its achievements were greatest after complete victory in 1975. At the present time Vietnamese radio and television have the principal task of mobilizing our people for the construction of socialist Vietnam and at the same time defending our socialist homeland since you all know that we are still under the threat of the warmongering and hegemonic leaders of Beijing. These are the two principal tasks of Vietnamese radio and television, that is, to construct the country and to defend socialism. [Text] [FL101920 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Nov 82]

CSO: 5500/2016

BULGARIA

QUALITY OF FIRST BULGARIAN COLOR TV 'SOFIA-81' DISCUSSED

Sofia ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 16 Oct 82 p 2

[Article by Lyubima Buchinska: "On 'Sofia' Television Sets and Their Future"]

[Text] "Sofia-81," the first Bulgarian color TV set remains the most sought-after product of Sofia's industry. Its production goes exclusively to the domestic market. However, the figure of 20,000 per year is still unable to meet consumer demand. Production will reach 30,000 in 1983. Work on the development and fastest possible production of a series of new color television sets equaling the latest models, is continuing on a parallel basis.

The social recognition of the high technical indicators of the "Sofia-81" TV set is the first reward for scientific and technical progress. It is the distinction of the Institute of Radio Electronics and the Kliment Voroshilov Low Tension Appliances Plant earned this year on the occasion of the freedom anniversary.

As early as 1978, when this new Bulgarian item was offered on the international market, it was able successfully to prove its qualities which are no longer a novelty although interest in this color television set has not declined. We are familiar with its esthetic appearance and picture contrast. The screen is 66 cm long and its relatively low weight of 36 kg makes it easy to move. Unlike the old television sets, its qualities do not depend on the geometric location of the receiver and the low power consumption is a prerequisite for the slower wearout of its parts. The receiver was tested for 3,000 hours of work, which means that no repairs would be required for a period exceeding 3 years.

"Our collective of specialists covered the distance from Opera to 'Sofia-81' but the pace of technical progress allows no stagnation. We are familiar with the latest world models. We shall use in our developments new integrated circuits which will reduce the share of skilled labor," we were told by Apostol Apostolov, head of the Television Equipment Section of the Radio Electronics Institute.

The color television sets are being improved with the new series of prototypes. Noteworthy among them is "Sofia-82A," which has a much more modern picture tube.

Currently the experimental production of "Sofia-83" is continuing. This model is expected to be most in demand. It will have a 56 cm long screen with a picture tube produced in Poland.

"The design collective of the institute is working on 'Sofia-84,' with a 67 cm wide screen," my interlocutor went on to say. "Its new features are the automatic switching of sound and picture, with the channel indicated in illuminated figures. New integral circuits will be applied with this model. Together with the Center for Industrial Esthetics, we are looking for better design as well. Sample production is expected to begin in June 1983."

The specialists are now working on determining the final width of the screen and the functional features of the portable "Sofia-85" model.

There are good expectations related to a larger number of new models with improved qualities of Bulgarian color television sets to be produced in 1983.

5003

CSO: 5500/3001

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

SATELLITE GROUND STATION--A ground station for telephone communications with any country via satellite was installed in Tegucigalpa last week. The station, which will lower communication costs, has a parabolic antenna 11 meters in diameter and operates through a geostationary satellite located 36 km above the earth. It is expected that the station will begin operating in early November. Honduras is the last country in Central America to install this type of equipment. [PA011850 San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Oct 82 p 3 PA]

CSO: 5500/2014

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SYRIA SAID 'JAMMING' TV RECEPTION IN NORTH OF ISRAEL

TA071016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0535 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] For many months, the inhabitants of the valleys in the Golan Heights have been suffering interference with Israeli television broadcasts, caused by intentional jamming by the Syrians. Recently, this interference has increased. Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Jumping lines, a jumble of voices in Arabic, and other distortions and noises is what the valley inhabitants get when they try to watch Israeli television broadcasts. The huge transmitter the Syrians set up in the southern Golan Heights is the cause of these disturbances. The television broadcasts from Jordan and Syria are received here with frustrating clarity, and this has been going on for many months, the mayor of Tiberias, Yigal (Bibi), says:

[Bibi] For some time now, inhabitants of Tiberias and the Galilee have been watching Jordanian and Syrian TV. They are unable to watch Israeli TV because it is simply impossible to see. The interference is very heavy.

[Hecht] Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori is aware of the gravity of the problem. On a visit to the area, Tzipori said he would allocate funds to set up powerful transmitters in the north in order to solve the problem. However, until the necessary funds are found, the valley inhabitants will be able to watch commentaries on current events thanks to the obliging broadcasting stations in Damascus and Amman. [End recording]

CSO: 5500/4506

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS GETTING NEW BUILDING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 20 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

With the installation of the different technical units, national and international switching systems, long distance communication units, national and international switching boards, the microwave systems with antenna and a communication satellite installed in the new communications building, significant improvements are expected in the field of communications within the country and abroad.

A Communications Ministry official told the Kabul New Times reporter that the work of the new building of the ministry, which is financed from the state development budget, has progressed over 53 per cent. The building has four blocks for different sections of the ministry.

The first block in the first two floors will house the central post office.

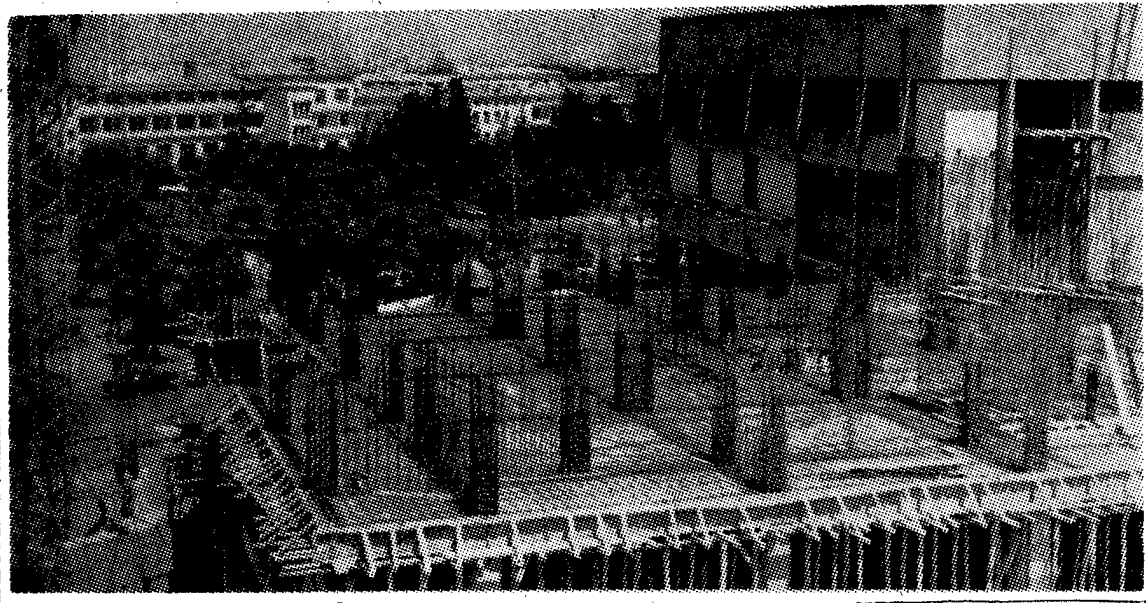
The second, in five floors will be for the distribution

and management of post, parcels and postal imports. The third block, in 18 floors, will house different technical units and administrative departments, while the fourth block will be for the various technical units.

The ministry's office space needs will be fully met with the completion of this project.

The construction works is being done by the Afghan Construction Company. Although the building cost will be determined at the end of the work, it has been estimated that about Afs 6,000 millions will be spent on this project.

Afghan and foreign engineers of the Public Works Ministry are taking active part in designing, planning and building of the new offices. The company provides building materials for the project from local and foreign markets.



CSO: 5500/4702

AFGHANISTAN

TRANSMITTERS TO BOOST RADIO KABUL BROADCASTS

LD041623 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 1 Nov 82

[Text] Some five transmitter units for boosting Kabul radio programs as well as broadcasting local programs have been set up so far in five provinces of the country. This has been done in accordance with the resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo.

Speaking to the Bakhtar Agency reporter, the head of the Communications Ministry Technical Department said [announcer read]: Due to the mountainous character of our country and [word indistinct] the voice of the Afghanistan radio cannot be heard well in some high regions of the country's provinces, and, on the other hand, to expand and further improve artistic talents for producing programs on local customs and traditions, it was decided, along with boosting Radio Afghanistan's broadcasts, to also broadcast local programs. Thus far five radio transmitter and broadcasting units have been set up in the Pakhtia, Zabol, Nangarhar, Ghazni and Helmand provinces, and installation work is currently being carried out.

Answering another question, he said: These 7-kw units and their relevant accessories have been given as grant-in-aid by the friendly and fraternal country, the USSR, to the DRA, and their construction cost in those provinces will be met by the state development budget. He added that the broadcast range of these units is 60 km during the day and over 120 km during the night.

Answering another question, the technical director of the Communications Ministry said: The 10-kw transmitter and local broadcast units in the Balkh, Kandahar and Herat provinces have already been set up and such units will be installed in the near future in the country's central provinces in accordance with plans in hand.

CSO: 5500/4705

POSTAL SERVICE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS REVIEWED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 6 Oct 82 p 7

[Article by APS: "Jijel Postal Service and Telecommunications: 2,000 Lines for Each District"]

[Text] The battle being fought by the governorate of Jijel to emerge from the centuries-old isolation which characterizes it is being waged on several fronts. The Postal Service and Telecommunications sector, along with highway infrastructure, is a favorable factor in assuring socio-economic and cultural development for this governorate, which resulted from the last administrative land division.

In the Postal Service and Telecommunications area, it is easy to recognize that the situation has definitely improved over a period of a few years, and it will be even more so in future. In 1975, for example, to make a telephone call to any part of the national territory one had to arm oneself with patience for hours on end, if not whole days, because of the difficulties within the system.

All calls passed either through the main center in Constantine or through the one in Algiers. Communications with foreign countries were also very hard to provide for the few subscribers in the city.

The efforts made in this field by the officials concerned have helped to eliminate these flagrant incongruities and make way for both qualitative and quantitative improvement in postal and telecommunications service, without which there can be no real moving ahead.

The governorate's postal and telecommunications infrastructure comprised 26 full service post offices, 7 delivery depots, and 11 branch post offices, or a total of 50 postal establishments. This infrastructure amounts to 1 office for every 10,104 residents, whereas on 1 January 1976, there existed only 30 offices, or 1 office for 17,000 residents. The branch post offices now being established or soon to be placed in service as well as 17 more planned under the first slice of the Community Development Plans (PCD) will bring the number of offices to 78, or 1 office for every 8,200 residents, bearing in mind the population increase, which is expected to be on the order of 640,000 inhabitants toward the end of the 5-year plan period.

The projects listed under the 2nd 4-year plan are either completed or in the process of being executed. The delays, according to officials of the Postal and Communications Service, are the result "of the lack of materials." Of these projects, some have been opened to the public, particularly in Zeraia, Sidi Maarouf, and Emir Abdelkader. The state of readiness of the rest varies from 40 to 100 percent, so far as the heavy construction is concerned.

The objective, according to Postal and Telecommunications officials, is improvement of the quality of service under the 5-year plan. It will take the form of development of the existing infrastructure with the goal of bringing services closer to users through the establishment of 17 branch post offices already listed in the first slice of the community development plans, the construction of a main delivery depot in the governorate capital city, and lastly, the construction of 10 full service offices to normalize and improve working conditions for the personnel of certain offices of which the premises are substandard, insanitary, or far too small. This program will affect localities such as Tiberguent, Erraguene, Beni-Guecha, Ahmed-Rachedi (Chekfa), Sidi-Abdelaziz, El-Aouana, Settara, Rouached, El-Mhad, and Beinen.

Mail delivery has also made considerable strides. At present, 57 temporary and permanent mail carriers make 57 rounds daily, amounting to 800 kilometers of travel on foot and 400 kilometers with motor transportation.

Dispatching is handled by 27 enterprises of which 24 are privately owned. The latter cover a distance of 500 kilometers a day within the governorate.

Transport of the mail within the governorate is provided by private companies, whose financial requirements are well below the funding allocated for the service. Action is being contemplated with the APC [People's Communal Assembly] in this area with a view to communal transport for postal purposes.

In the area of telecommunications, about 622 telephone subscribers were recorded in the capital city of the governorate in 1975, connected to a manual switchboard, and the district capitals had available very defective equipment inadequate to the traffic. The total number of subscribers was 1,130, or a coefficient of 0.22 stations per 100 inhabitants. At present, 6,002 main telephones, of which 33,904 [as published] in the governorate capital, are installed (or 1.18 stations per 100 inhabitants). To that must be added the supplementary telephones, numbering 1,661, at the main telephone office, and 844 in the local offices, or an overall total of 8,507 telephones placed at the disposal of users. The density is 1.60 telephones per 100 inhabitants and a degree of automation of around 84 percent (for the governorate as a whole). The degree of automation on the national scale is 90 percent.

This perceptible amendment of the situation results mainly from the completion of projects in the 2nd 4-year plan related to the placement in service of four automatic telephone exchanges in Jijel, Taher, El Milia, and Ferdjioua, two repeater stations (Jijel and El Milia), and a radio center at Ferdjioua (Djebel Trira), as well as the construction of four telephone booths to serve isolated areas and the connection of houses in the forest.

As regards telegraphy, the main center in Jijel is equipped with an automatic self-switching telegraphic system of the "TW 10" type, comprising 100 pieces of equipment and expandable to 200. For the moment, 55 subscribers and 14 special lines are connected, whereas in 1975 there were only 2 subscribers and 2 service telephones connected with Constantine.

In the course of the 5-year development plan (1980-1984), many projects in the postal and telegraphic sector will be completed in various places in the governorate, and will make it possible to respond to a constantly growing demand, bearing in mind the requirements of the social and economic development of the region.

Among these projects should be mentioned a telephone exchange in Jijel with a capability of 10,000 lines which will be installed on a 2,000 square-meter site, and two exchanges at Ouled-Endja and Ziamamansouriah with 500 lines each, with expansion possibilities. The same program provides for the extension of the presently existing exchanges, in Jijel, from 5,000 to 10,000 lines, in Taher and El Milia, from 1,000 to 2,000 lines, and in Ferdjioua, from 500 to 2,000 lines.

Among the difficulties experienced by the postal and telegraphic sector is to be noted the defective condition of the roads for bringing in the mail. It has not been possible to open completed branch post offices in Larabaa, Boutenach, and El-Aouadia because of this situation.

12149

CSO: 5500/4600

IRAN

BRIEFS

TELEVISION RELAY STATION--As the result of the attempts and endeavors of officials to expand the network of the Voice and Vision [radio and television] of the Islamic Republic of Iran the installation of the television relay station in Tazarjan and Dehebala has been completed. From today the inhabitants of the above-mentioned regions can make use of the programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, channel four. [Text] [LD211620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 82]

MANSHAD TELEVISION RELAY--According to the central news unit, thanks to the efforts of the expansion unit of Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the installation work on the TV relay station in Manshad in Yazd was completed today. The inhabitants of the villages of Manshad and (?Banask-e Sadat) will be able to receive the programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on channel five, from today. [Text] [LD191547 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1710 GMT 18 Oct 82]

CSO: 5500/4703

LEBANON

BRIEFS

FRENCH TELECOMMUNICATIONS STUDY--Yesterday afternoon a French scientific delegation arrived in Beirut to study the disruptions which have occurred in the telecommunications network in Lebanon and to determine ways of repairing and developing it. Minister of Post and Telecommunications George Afram, general manager of communications Mr Edeard Abu-Jawdah and senior employees of the ministry met the delegation, which included five experts. The minister held a working meeting with the experts just before he left the airport for Saudi Arabia. The commercial attache from the French Embassy, Mr Lucien (Joffraud) participated in the meeting. [Text] [Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Oct 82 p 5]

CSO: 5500/4508

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

EXPANSION OF RADIO NETWORK REPORTED

LD221318 Vienna OPECNA in English 2043 GMT 21 Oct 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Oct (OPECNA)--A Swiss company has won a 70 million U.S. dollar contract to expand Abu Dhabi's international radio network into a world service.

The project, to be completed within 28 months, involves the construction of two transmission stations, one short wave and the other medium wave, in the Ad-Dubry'ah area 30 km southwest of here.

The United Arab Emirates minister of information and culture, Ahmad Ibn Hamid Al Nuhayyan, signed an agreement with an official of the Swiss-based Brown Boveri Company.

Under the expansion plan, the Emirates' radio service, broadcasting in four languages, will join the ranks of free radio stations covering the world.

The network will be able to operate 24 hours a day on 10 frequencies, and a scheme to broadcast in 10 languages is under consideration.

The medium wave station will be equipped with two linked 1,000 kw transmitters to cover the gulf, the Middle East, India and Pakistan, while the short wave station, with four 500 kw transmitters, will reach the Americas, Europe, West Africa and the Near and Far East.

Five new studios will also be built for transmission and programme production.

CSO: 5500/4507

ROLE OF VARIOUS RADIO STATIONS SPELLED OUT

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 22 Oct 82 p 24

[Article by Folu Adelaja]

[Text]

THE Director-General of the Federal Radio Corporation (FRCN), Mr. George Bako has said that the Act which established the corporation permits it to operate in all the states of the federation.

He told the New Nigerian in his office on Wednesday that contrary to protests, the bill sponsored by the President in January and later withdrawn was not seeking to legalise the establishment of new radio stations.

The bill, he said, was to decentralise the corporation and give more powers to the state stations so that they could take on the spot decisions and enable the corporation to undertake commercial advertisements.

Mr. Bako said the Act specifically asked the FRCN to foster the unity of the nation adding that to effectively do this, linguistic barrier must be eliminated and that was what the state stations were established to do.

He said the state stations were also to inform the people of the achievements of the Federal Government since the state-owned stations relayed only those of their governments.

However, the FRCN stations were not to compete but to complement the state-owned stations Mr. Bako added.

The director-general further disclosed that the FRCN needed the withdrawn bill because the present Act did not allow them to engage in commercial business adding that the meagre disbursement of funds by the government limits the operation of the corporation. He said that the corporation asked for 43 million Naira this year but was granted only 27 million Naira.

This he declared, would affect the quality of the corporation's programmes.

Mr. George Bako who is also the current President of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), hinted that the nation was not mature economically enough for private radio stations.

He said this was because they would depend on advertisements to survive and at present, the market for advertisements was not viable enough.

The director-general believed that in future, local governments would ask for their own radio stations.

He said they would need one like the state to inform the electorate of their functions.

BRIEFS

RADIO, TV FOR KANO--Two more broadcasting services are now available for public in Kano. The first is the Federal Radio Corporation (FRCN--2) Kano which had since began test transmission on the medium wave band. The second one is "City Television" station owned by the Kano State Government and now transmitting from Government House, Kano where it was temporarily located. The television station broadcast in colour on Channel 67 in the ultra-high frequency (UHF) range and covers mainly the state capital and its environs. The two new services bring to five the number of broadcasting stations in the state capital. The others are--Nigerian Television Authority, Kano, the Kano State Broadcasting Corporation and a sub-station of Nigerian Television Authority, Kaduna. [Article by Abdulhamid Babatunde] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 22 Oct 82 p 11]

CSO: 5500/29

BRIEFS

OPTICAL FIBRE PLANT--A R1-million optical fibre cable plant, the first of its kind in South Africa, was opened at ATC, Brits, by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Dr Lapa Munnik, this weekend. The use of optical fibre cables would revolutionise the communications industry in South Africa as it already had overseas, said ATC chairman Lou Wildman. An optical fibre uses a glass core through which light waves are guided instead of the electrical impulses of the standard copper cable. The glass core is usually no thicker than a thread of sewing cotton. One km of eight-fibre cable 10mm in diameter weighs only 100kg, and will carry nearly 8 000 simultaneous telephone calls. Optical fibres have no metal in them and are not disturbed by electrical interference and lightning. Despite their small size, glass fibres, originally developed in Britain in 1970, can be made almost as strong as steel, and can support weights of nearly 1 kg on a single fibre. They cannot, however, be stretched much without breaking, and consequently care must be taken while making them into cables. Strength members are incorporated for protection. An interesting feature of the manufacture of optical fibre is that it is all done in one room, little bigger than a large office. The place is so clean that workers wear cloth overshoes so as not to scuff the highly polished floors. [Text] [Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES-BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Oct 82 p 1]

CSO: 5500/25

SECOND BROADCASTING CHANNEL

MB131320 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 12 Nov 82 pp 1, 20

[Article by James Dlamini]

[Text] Swaziland broadcasting service is busily preparing for its second channel--SBS-2--set to begin broadcasting early next year.

Director of SBS, Mr J.B.S. Vilakati, said yesterday the construction of the new station at Sidvokodvo was nearing completion.

Mr Vilakati said SBS-2, which will broadcast in Siswati, will have one big station and no booster stations. SBS-1 has six booster stations.

Mr Vilakati said new equipment from the United States had arrived in Durban and are to be transported to Sidvokodvo to be stored until the building is completed.

SBS's chief engineer, Mr Sydney Black, recently returned from the United States where he tested and purchased equipment for the new station.

The new equipment which has arrived in Durban includes insulators.

"Most of the equipment which will be needed for the station has already been purchased," Mr Vilakati said.

SBS-1 will broadcast in English and will give more time to schools and other educational programmes.

"However, broadcasting in two channels and two languages will not be easy in view of current lack of skilled manpower," Mr Vilakati said. "This will involve an intensive on the job training programme," he said. "Building may be easy, but it may not be so easy to find suitable personnel," he said.

SBS currently covers 90 per cent of the country. However, in some areas, such as Nyamane and Makhosini, SBS broadcasts are not heard very clearly. Mr Vilakati said there is an on-going survey to identify all the areas where SBS broadcasts are not clear with a view to improving the situation.

"In areas where our transmission is not clear, we will install low transmitters," Mr Vilakati said.

SBS-2 will concentrate on Siswati cultural programmes. These will include Siswati music, literature and traditional story telling.

CSO: 5500/35

EEC SEEKS TO IMPROVE TANZANIA-MADAGASCAR COMMUNICATIONS

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 26 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by Charles Kizigha]

[Text]

THE European Economic Community (EEC) has offered the Directorate of Civil Aviation (DCA) telecommunication equipment worth 13m/- to improve communication between Tanzania and Tananarive Madagascā.

The DCA Director-General, Ndugu Loti Mollel, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the equipment included aērals, transmetres and receivers of "HF" frequency.

He said that the equipment would be installed at the Dar es Salaam International airport. Installation of the equipment would require very little civil works, he added.

Ndugu Mollel said that part of the 13m/- would be spent on training at least two people from his directorate of civil aviation.

The director general said that the pledge for the equip-

ment was made about five years ago. "The equipment will be installed soon after arrival. We are not sure on when it will arrive," he added.

Ndugu Mollel said that communication between Tanzania and Tananarive was not very good. The expected equipment will improve it, he said.

He added that DCA had already established good communication links with Beira, Lusaka and Nairobi.

A press statement from delegation of the Commission of the European Communities based in Dar es Salaam said that the 13m/- was part of 100 m/- approved by EEC on October 5, to establish telecommunication network to aid air navigation in the western part of the Indian Ocean.

CSO: 5500/27

TRANSMITTER TO COUNTER SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO DOMINANCE TO BE INSTALLED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 5 Nov 82 p 7

[Excerpt]

A 500 kW transmitter costing K2.4 million would soon be installed in Lusaka to effectively counter South African radio dominance in some areas of Zambia.

Chief engineer at the Zambia Broadcasting Services (ZBS) Mr Churchill Mutale said yesterday that construction was expected to begin soon.

When completed the transmitter would be able to beam programmes to all parts of Zambia at night and large portions of the country during the day.

The transmission would be on short wave near the wavelength now used by Radio South Africa.

He was briefing Secretary to the Cabinet Mr Evans Willima and a number of permanent secretaries on a tour of the mass media complex.

Mr Mutale said Pretoria had for sometime now been jamming Zambian frequencies and although Zambia was capable of doing the same to South African frequencies it had instead decided to boost output.

There was marked improvement in radio reception in some rural areas where previously people often listened to Radio South Africa or Malawi.

CSO: 5500/39

BRIEFS

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS CUTOFF--Serenje and Kapiri Mposhi have been cut off from telephone communication for nearly two weeks now, senior officials of the Posts and Telecommunications Corporations in Kabwe have confirmed. Worst hit is the police headquarters in Kabwe which has not been able to communicate with Kapiri Mposhi and Serenje. "We have not been in contact with our Serenje and Kapiri Mposhi stations for one week now," Central Province police chief Mr Oscar Phiri said yesterday. But senior PTC technicians who preferred not to be named said the problem was caused by the change-over from the old system to bring the three Kabwe, Serenje and Kapiri Mposhi in line with other towns. PTC regional manager Mr Allan Shadrow declined to comment. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 5 Nov 82 p 7]

CSO: 5500/39

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

CABLE TELEVISION TO RECEIVE PUBLIC, PRIVATE FUNDING

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 23 Oct 82 p 13

[Text] Bonn, 22 Oct--Federal Postal Minister Dr Christian Schwarz-Schilling is thinking about a limited freeing of television and other forms of communication from the postal monopoly. He wants to offer private businesses the opportunity to establish and run the so-called broad-band distribution networks. Such networks can carry far more information than those we have been familiar with up to now. In fact, the postal administration itself intends to move forward more rapidly than hitherto with laying cables for entire cities. The funds for this are supposed to be increased to DM 1 billion in the coming year. But Schwarz-Schilling wants to offer to private enterprise capital projects totaling an additional billion.

What the Federal postal minister has in mind is a cooperative effort between the postal administration and private suppliers. According to this model, the postal administration picks out relatively small municipalities and smaller towns. Then the laying of cables for these communities is offered to private businesses, which in exchange receive a license for a period of 15 to 20 years. The postal administration limits itself to the construction of the necessary main lines and central distribution frames. On the other hand, service to households and laying the grids within the municipalities is left to the private businesses. The postal administration will confine itself in this respect to specifying technical requirements and standards. Then agreements will be reached in private contracts concerning what charges will be made by these businesses to the recipients who have been hooked up.

According to this model, the private network operators then will offer, on 20 to 25 channels, all the usual radio and television programs at first, as well as a broad band of local and other informational broadcasts. Later they can also be granted the right to broadcast programs produced by privately-run radio and television stations--namely, when the legislation on this problem has been provided. According to Schwarz-Schilling's idea, in this way "island networks" are created in one city after another. After the expiration of the license contracts, these island networks then revert back to the postal administration. Schwarz-Schilling expects that as a result of this, in the 1990's an integrated general network will arise. Minister Schwarz-Schilling sees only technical advantages in this program for the time being: "The postal administration will not be giving any more excuses which stand in the way of the dissemination of the new media and programs."

He said that there will be more channels, the benefits from hook-ups will be made more attractive, and along with increasing charges also the amortization of the cable hook-ups will rise as well. "Technical dead ends will no longer exist in the postal administration," said the minister. Since the tests being conducted by the postal administration with glass fiber technology are not supposed to be completed before 1986, Schwarz-Schilling sees no other option than the use of the customary coaxial system in laying these cables. He said that in view of the "astronomically high costs" of glass fiber technology, this is also cheaper.

However, in addition to the technology involved, this broad-band cabling is also important to Schwarz-Schilling as an economic-trend determinant: The hoped-for surge of investments amounting to an annual DM 1 billion will supposedly be of benefit above all to the cable-laying outfits, which have a relatively small-scale organizational structure, the construction trade, and the electrical-engineering trade. But also other branches of industry would feel a distinct stimulation as well. Schwarz-Schilling estimates that if this broad-band cable laying is speeded up more, in excess of 100,000 jobs can in part be secured, and in part be newly created.

As for the rest, the minister wants to administer the telecommunications monopoly of the postal administration in a more liberal fashion than his predecessors did, by letting himself be guided more by the desires of the consumers. However, Schwarz-Schilling wants to wait until later to examine any change in the telecommunications-systems law, as has been demanded by the Monopoly Commission and by some Lands. The minister is also cool toward the demand of the Monopoly Commission that the postal administration keep out of the terminal-device market except for the simple main subscriber station: Only if it should turn out that competition in terminal devices (telecopiers, telephone extensions) is endangered does he intend to contemplate a change in this law.

12114

CSO: 5500/2524

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

BONN GIVES GO-AHEAD FOR CABLE TELEVISION

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 25 Oct 82, pp 38, 42, 45

[Excerpts] A flood of thirty or more television channels, feature films, and shows free to the home, video services for every situation--Helmut Kohl's government has proclaimed a new age of the mass media for the FRG. New cable systems, which for years had been blocked by the SPD-FDP coalition, are to be made available to private stations and businesses. Federal Minister for Post and Telecommunications Christian Schwarz-Schilling expects that this laying of cables throughout the FRG will be the "greatest job-creating stimulant to the economy." The critics of total television fear cultural trivialization and political manipulation by well-heeled groups.

It has been said often enough that this business will be of national significance, in fact even an affair of the century. For example, when he was still chancellor Helmut Schmidt spoke about "dangers which are more immediate and more perilous even than nuclear power."

"Almost as grand as Gorleben" was the almost awestruck assessment of this by Christian Democrat Ernst Albrecht, leader of the Land of Lower Saxony, for whom the Gorleben project was just too grand. His party colleague Bernhard Vogel, who governs Rhineland-Palatinate, also saw it as extremely momentous, and he drew his parallel with the "expansion of the railroad network in the last century."

Now things are starting to move, and in fact at "full speed ahead," as was announced by Christian Schwarz-Schilling, the postmaster general in Bonn. Having just now taken office, the new Federal Government has proclaimed a new age of the mass media. And as far as the TV tube is concerned, the Germans are to be spared nothing.

In his government policy statement before the Bundestag, Chancellor Kohl "cleared the way" for the "use of modern processes and the development of new technologies, above all in the communications field." As if he were already a wire-puller, the head of the government declared that "the political blockade against the expansion of modern communication technologies" had "ended."

The postal administration, which with 542,000 employees and DM 41.6 billion in annual turnover is the largest employer in the FRG, is expected to carry along

with it the telecommunications trade, building industry, and electrical engineering industry into a new economic boom period. About 100,000 new jobs were promised by the minister, sometimes in 3 to 4 years, sometimes even "roughly 2 or 3 years from now." Such signals are being given quite offhandedly by the postmaster.

In fact, and again this is a change in direction, a gigantic market seems to be opening up for West German firms with this cable-laying. Not only new channels would be in store for the 25 million households, but with the corresponding productions there would also be new people, new studios, new technology.

When for the first time everything is connected to a single line, television and videophone, radio and datatext, then many new devices will be needed also in the living rooms. Millions of outdated television sets should be scrapped wherever possible, or at least be modified--a profitable period, although to all appearances this industrial branch is facing such a period with some uncertainty as yet.

If it is going to supply all households and businesses with a cable based on modern futuristic technology, this would cost DM 100 to 180 billion, depending on which estimates are used. Skilled manual workers would have to do the corresponding hook-ups--which comes to about DM 400 per hook-up.

Only: Schwarz-Schilling's economic miracle by no means can happen just yet. The great impetus which the minister is predicting so boldly will occur only 3 years from now at the earliest.

For example, it would seem reasonable to lay the cables at long last for those 11 conurbations which Minister Gscheidle had already intended to give service to. But the "plans for the 11 regions," as Christian Schwarz-Schilling alludes to this dilemma, "are probably already obsolete in technical terms."

Expressed more precisely, at present the postal administration has only copper cable. And if Schwarz-Schilling were to furnish the chosen eleven with this now, he would have to do the same work twice within a few years--"a misconceived capital project on a grand scale," Social Democrat Glotz warns.

Because the future belongs to the glass fiber cable, which is far superior to the customary coaxial cable, but it will not be ready for use until around 1985. Via light beams, this hair-thin glass fiber can transmit incomparably more data, services, and channels than the copper cables. It is the material needed for their data lines by those industries which have located in these conurbation areas; cable television and much else as well can be accommodated in the glass-fiber network on the side, as it were.

Consequently, the new postmaster general can lay out his old cable only where there will be no appearance for a long time yet of the glass fibers--whose dissemination throughout the nation will drag on for decades. In less industrialized zones, for example, in small towns, and in any case in the distant countryside.

But it is there that even after Schmidt's cable blockade the Federal Postal Administration had continued to dig up the ground. Therefore there is no question of any general capital-expenditure stoppage, which is what the SPD-FDP has been accused of by the Union parties. The cable funds, which after all total DM 410 million in the 1983 budget, have not been withheld, but have only been diverted from the cities to the other side of the mountains.

Now Schwarz-Schilling wants to fork out an additional DM 590 million for the purpose of laying copper cable in small municipalities which lie in the reception-shadow areas. And even this program is not new. Hitherto the postal administration had already been accommodating such shadow areas, whenever the communities involved filed a petition and made a contribution of their own resources, or offered cost-saving conditions such as a local installation of the conduit.

Now the Christian Democrat must either draw these millions from the investment reserves surviving from SPD-FDP times, or else borrow them on the capital market.

However, it is still a question whether the capital expenditures of the postal administration and of related branches of West-German industry will turn into a prosperity for the whole. The consumer, who has to pay for tapping off these cables, will save this money in some other area. And the new video technology whose establishment will create jobs at first will also destroy other jobs--this is almost its point.

Nevertheless, all the contradictions and inconsistencies which are peculiar to this ending by the Union-party government of the cabling blockade do not cast any doubts on this fact: A new mass-media age is in store for the FRG. The resentment at the "incredible arrogance of the leftist program makers, who think they know what is good for the citizen" (Albrecht) will be permitted to vent itself now.

There is no doubt that Christian Schwarz-Schilling will "place the Federal Postal Administration in the service of his media-policy strategies," as was said by Wilhelm Noebel, SPD member of parliament in Bonn. When the minister presidents want this, he will interconnect the already existing cable islands into widespread networks. And when money and technology allow him to do this, he will crisscross the densely populated regions with glass fiber.

12114

CSO: 5500/2524

FINLAND

BRIEFS

FINLAND JOINS EUTELSAT--On 28 September Finland signed an agreement to join the Eutelsat organization, which has as its purpose the operation of a general international computer data traffic service by satellite throughout Europe. Eutelsat is a permanent organization which will continue that activity previously carried on by an earlier, temporary organization. Eutelsat can send up satellites or related equipment to serve the international and national computer data traffic. It will not operate in the area of military traffic. Finland at this stage did not sign any agreement regarding the business aspects of Eutelsat. However, the Postal and Telecommunications Agency has already planned funds for the country's share of operational costs, which are estimated to be about 2 million markkas in 1983. [Text] [Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 2 Oct 82 p 13]

CSO: 5500/2538

FRANCE

THOMSON EYES 30 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC TELECOPIER MARKET

Paris ZERO UN INFORMATIQUE HEBDO in French 27 Sep 82 p 60

[Article: "Thomson's Thomfax 2000"]

[Excerpts] "Our objective is to capture quickly 30 percent of the French telecopier market," said Michel Duquenne, manager of Thomson's Facsimile Department, with reference to the company's French marketing plan for its line of telecopiers, particularly its Thomfax 2000, which was given its marketing kickoff at the SICOB [Exposition of Office and Business Supply Industries and Office Organization].

"A key element in our strategy, facsimile is a significant example of the way in which the company intends, as a result of a selectively determined choice, to concentrate its efforts on several key products essential to the use of business communications and data systems," added Francois Dufaux, assistant manager of the Data Processing and Communications Group.

In a novel strategy, whereby the Thomfax 2000 entered the international market before seeking out the domestic market, this telecopier was introduced for the first time by the 3M Company at the ICA [International Communications Association] Show in New Orleans. Some 1,200 Thomfax 2000's were delivered to American clientele in June 1982. Francois Dufaux expects this total to reach 3,500 by the end of the year.

This telecopier has some winning cards: The product occupies a unique niche in the world market for small individual telecopiers; and, derived as it is from the TGD ["telecopieur de grande diffusion": high-volume telecopier] project, it features compatibility almost worldwide and particularly on the American market, where it is compatible with all Group 2 and Group 3 equipment distributed in the United States.

Manufactured in France at Laval, in Mayenne, at the rate of 1,000 units per month, the Thomfax 2000 is expected to attain a production rate of 3,000 machines per month in 1983.

Thomson In Figures

Groupe Thomson:

--Consolidated turnover (before taxes) for the year 1981: 43.6 billion francs, of which 46 percent was sales on foreign markets.

--Ten-year volume growth rate: +2.6.

--Payroll: 130,000 employees.

Thomson-CSF:

--Consolidated turnover (before taxes) in 1981: 25.1 billion francs, of which 48 percent was earned outside of France.

--Expenditures on research and development: 4 billion francs.

--Payroll: 82,000 persons, of whom 8,800 are outside of France.

9238

CSO: 5500/2513

VELIZY PROJECT CAUSES QUESTIONS ON DGT ROLE IN TELEMATICS

Paris ZERO UN INFORMATIQUE HEBDO in French 18 Oct 82 p 37

[Article by Eric Sorlet: "Post-Velizy Hopes and Uncertainties"]

[Text] The Teletel-3V experiment is coming to an end. What will be the future of telematics after this operation, which in principle was limited in time and space? This was the topic of a session at the Data Processing Convention, chaired by Maurice Ronai, task leader at Midist. None of the participants played the fortune teller.

The purpose was rather to learn from experience in order to define guidelines and indications for progress.

The first subject of discussion was the role played by the government, and more particularly by DGT (General Telecommunications Directorate). Antoine Lefebure, in charge of new technologies at Havas, believes that telematics is quite different from the telephone, and that the administration cannot ignore message content. Indeed, content influences distribution and the role of PTT can be compared to that of NMPP (Nouvelle Presse de la Messagerie Parisienne) for the press.

Claude Grezes, responsible for marketing at Teletel (DGT), disclaims the exercise of such a control. In turn, Eric Cherki, in charge of research at CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research), feels that DGT is already busy with many aspects of new media, and that within a liberal economy, it must divest itself to the maximum possible extent, of the distribution of peripherals and management of services.

Concerted Voluntary Compliance

In reviewing the stages of the "telematics plan" and of its reception by the public, Eric Cherki believes that many problems result from the fact that Velizy was first conceived as a general use plan (with the electronic phone directory).

This voluntary compliance strategy, coupled with a lack of coordination with partners, did become an industrial success but also resulted in a socio-political dead end. The change in government has now led to a form of concerted voluntary compliance, but the problem remains the same: where does DGT's power stop?

A Positive Balance

Claude Grezes then established a first balance sheet for Teletel-3V.

In technical terms, everything is working properly, and Teletel is probably the first large heterogeneous operational network. The industrial objectives have been achieved. New activities have been started, with the consequent creation of about 500 jobs. The offer of services has grown consistently in the most diverse areas, shedding more light on problems of design, formulation, and promotion of videotex programs.

The utilization of these services is characterized by a remarkable stability of calls. The 2241 terminals installed in private homes are used an average of eight times per month, each one in order to consult 3.5 services per call. At the same time, 25 percent of the terminals are inactive.

The seven terminals installed in public areas generate 700 to 1000 calls per week. Each of the 46 terminals installed in schools create about five calls per day.

The most consulted services are those of the press, as well as message services (with 200 groups of users), utilities, and education programs.

Adapting to the Public

For 95 percent of the users, the Teletel communications bill is less than 50 FF per month. The introduction of fee services does not appear to be an obstacle to consultation (but it remains to be seen if the amounts charged will be representative of the real costs!).

On balance, the experiment is thus positive, and reveals the demands of users in terms of quality, reliability, as well as hardware and software ergonomics.

It is now time to provide services. But in what context? Based on systematic polls and surveys, B. Cathalat, research director at CCA (research center of the Havas group), reported the analysis of the potential expectations of users, and the principles which can help improve the proposed services.

An often overlooked fact is that telematics implies a change in the attitude of the public, or rather of "the publics." Telematics was introduced in the absence of all "ethics." Yet, technologic innovation must increasingly be socially justified.

Today, the public does not have a clear perception of telematics. There is no rejection, but there is also no great enthusiasm. In this climate of sociologic slackness, several orientations should be respected: lend a meaning to telematics (what use is it? what are its objectives?); vulgarize the technology, the equipment, and the utilization; facilitate acquisition; abandon a monolithic telematics so as to become adapted to a variety of needs and lifestyles.

11,023
CSO: 5500/2528

LILLE FIBER OPTICS PROGRAM BEGINS TESTING

Paris LES ECHOS in French 20 Oct 82 p 12

[Article by Gerard Braz]

[Text] (From our correspondent) The fiber optics communications network of the Lille urban community, whose design is a world first, is entering its test phase. At the beginning of 1983, 50 sets will be connected in the Saint-Sauveur neighborhood of Lille, awaiting the expansion of the operation to 3000-5000 homes in 1984, and by 1990 to 300,000 locations in the CUDL territory (86 communities, 1,150,000 inhabitants).

The originality of the system rests in fiber optics, which makes it possible to bring 32 channels to each of the 50 experimental sets (16 for French and foreign national stations, four for FM radios, and the other 12 for specific programs of regional or local origin, and for video-library services).

But in particular, fiber optics introduce interactivity: users select a program, request and obtain it immediately, without the waiting period often required for the customers of the large American or Canadian copper coaxial cable networks, which become congested in the same way as telephone circuits.

The technology is being tested, and the economic-legal framework is being studied. By the end of October, the 50-set Lille pilot test will become part of an agreement joining the urban community, the General Directorate for Telecommunications, TDF (French TV), and manufacturers; among the latter, together with the large companies, which did not hide their interest, should be Velec-Sefat, a Tourcoing electronics specialist.

Programming: a GIE (economic interest group)

For the final phase, Gerard Vignoble, socialist mayor of Wasquehal and "father" of the project, anticipates nothing less than a joint economic company for the maintenance and commercial administration of the network, which could be accessed by an annual subscription expected to be about 400 francs.

Programming would be entrusted to a GIE which would combine potential service units with government and local collectivities.

In any case, the implementation of such a network obviously encounters the "monopoly" pitfall, which is already implicit as soon as the first direct broadcasting satellites begin their operation.

"When decentralization is being instituted in France," states Gerard Vignoble, "it is inconceivable that the construction and management competence for communication networks remain concentrated in the hands of a central authority, no matter who it is."

The economic consequences of the Lille project are large, since its promoters are seeking a high rank for the French industry on the international market, and are hoping to create 15,000 jobs in the near future, according to Gerard Vignoble's estimates.

The National Commission for Television Distribution Through Cable Networks (CODITEC), of the Group of Electronics Industrialists (GIEL), goes even further: in a recent report, it mentions a potential market of 45 billion francs on French territory alone, likely to cause the creation of 30,000 new industrial jobs and 20,000 other jobs in maintenance and management units.

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CSO: 5500/2528

FRANCE

BRIEFS

ALSTHOM SUBSIDIARY IN BRAZIL--CESP (Sao Paulo Power Company) has entrusted a French-Brazilian consortium, that includes CGEE-Alsthom as leader, with the supply of data processing equipment for a central dispatching and three regional dispatching centers for the electricity network of the state of Sao Paulo, which is the largest in Brazil. The total size of the contract is 353 million francs, 134 of which for the French share. The latter is financed in the form of buyer's credit by a bank pool that includes BNP (Banque Nationale de Paris) as leader. Delivery of the equipment, part of which will be manufactured in Brazil, is planned for 1986, for placement in operation in 1987. [Text] [Paris LES ECHOS in French 21 Oct 82 p 8] 11,023

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SWEDISH EARTH STATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Frolunda NORDISK INDUSTRITIDNING in Swedish No 2, 1981 p 5

[Text] In January 1984, the National Swedish Telecommunication System will open the first totally Swedish earth station for transmitting telephone conversations and TV pictures by satellite. The earth station, which will be built in Agesta, a mile south of Stockholm, is estimated to cost 60 million kronor and will have a capacity of 2000 simultaneous telephone calls. Finland, Norway, and Denmark have already rented space in the station which, according to traffic, will be one of the largest in Europe. It will sever the rest of Europe via a satellite that, next April, will receive its permanent position above the equator on the west coast of Africa.

An architectural firm is right now drawing up plans. All the buildings are being built by the National Swedish Telecommunication System. The System will request bids from contractors for this part of the project, and at the end of the year the bids will be awarded. The same procedure will be used for the radiotechnical part.

The digging will begin in the spring of 1982. Althogher, the station will not need an area greater than 25 acres. The reason for its placement in Agesta is that as interference-free a place as possible was desired, preferably in the vicinity of Kaknas, which is the central point for TV distribution, and Stockholm, which is the centre for international telecommunication.

The new Agesta station will mainly be used for transmitting telephone calls via satellite to and from 19 different countries in Europe, though unfortunately not from the Eastern states which are not part of the project. The traffic exchange between different countries varies considerably depending on special problems. For example, the traffic to and from England will usually travel via sea cable. The largest part of the traffic at the Agesta station will concern France, Italy, and the Benelux countries.

The satellite that is to be used by the Agesta station weighs 580 kilos and will be sent up during spring, 1982, with the European Ariane rocket [part of text missing] Guayana in South America. The satellite will be in a permanent orbit 36,000 kilometers above the point where the equator meets the west coast of Africa. The distance between the satellite and Agesta station will be

39,000 kilometers. The capacity of the satellite will be 12,000 telephone calls and two TV channels. In order that the operation be as dependable as possible, a spare satellite will be able to immediately take over should the regular one malfunction. This satellite will be sent up one year after the first one. The first should be in operation by 1 August 1983. The satellites are a new European design, and the consortium producing them includes the Swedish companies SAAB and L.M. Ericson.

Even if, at the start, the ECS project is not profitable for the National Swedish Telecommunication System, it would still have greatly positive results. Sweden and Swedish industry can benefit from it politically and through increased knowledge. It is also an advantage to have alternate routes to cables and radio links on land. Moreover, communication by satellite is usually a more secure route.

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END